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**FRANK, FEDORA SMALL
COLLECTION
1843-1964**

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INTRODUCTION

These materials dealing with the Jewish community in Nashville, Tennessee, were collected by Fedora Small (Mrs. Isadore) Frank in the course of her research for her book, *Five Families and Eight Young Men*, (Nashville and Her Jewry, 1850-1861), Nashville, Tenn., Tennessee Book Company, 1962.

The materials in this finding aid measure .84 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Frank, Fedora (Small) Collection may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

These papers, containing approximately 600 items, span the period from 1840 to 1964. The collection consists of correspondence, act of incorporation, a catalog, cemetery records, census records, confirmation certificates, deeds, a receipt, family records and essays, financial records, historical sketches, lists, marriage records, military records, naturalization papers and passports, newspaper excerpts, programs, a receipt, reports, and a speech.

The papers provide a rich source for the researcher investigating various aspects of the Jewish community of Nashville, Tennessee. The materials were selected and compiled by Fedora Small (Mrs. Isadore) Frank in the course of her research for her book, *Five Families and Eight Young Men*, (Nashville and Her Jewry, 1850-1861). However, the paper extend far beyond 1861, with perhaps the largest bulk of the collection dating from 1850 to 1915.

Many of the items in the collection pertain to the 1850's, the decade that witnessed the permanent establishment of a Nashville Jewish community. Although few records, as such, were left by the small group of Jewish immigrants who first settled in Nashville, their everyday life is revealed through diligent search of court proceedings, census records, newspapers and periodicals, excerpts of which have been included in this collection.

Correspondence includes a letter, 1850, regarding business conditions in Louisville and Nashville; a letter, 1862, applying for a position as rabbi in Nashville; and a letter, 1875, congratulating Andrew Johnson.

One letter, written August 8, 1852, by Isaac Garritson of Nashville to the prominent and unofficial "Chief Rabbi" of America at that time, Isaac Leeser of Philadelphia, contains one of the oldest bits of factual information about the Jews of Nashville' "We have established here last year, a Hebrew Benevolent Society... it is at present very small yet numbering only 5 families and about 8 young men...."

Sketches of Nashville, written in 1867 and 1870, give insight into the Jewish community and picture the city as "delightfully situated on the Cumberland River, with good water and low rent, but also tax and dog-plagued."

Newspaper excerpts, 1853-1915; 1953-1954, from Jewish and secular publications concern Anti-Semitism; the Anti-Grant movement of 1868; Jewish congregations, holidays, organizations, religious and social activities; and Jewish people in Nashville, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Franklin, and Murfreesboro.

The Jewish family newspaper, *The Observer*, contains excellent articles reviewing political, economic, and social movements affecting Jewry, and as such, should be consulted by the student of Jewish history. Within the issue of February 21, 1964, of this Nashville-based paper, to be found in this collection, are biographical information and photographs of many Jewish leaders, as well as an editorial summarizing national events from 1934 to 1964, with emphasis upon items of interest to the Jewish people.

A catalog, *American Jewish Art and History in the South, 1697-1900*, describes an exhibition of paintings of and by Jews. Many biographical notes on painters and subjects of paintings are included.

Other records reflect participation of Jewish people in the Civil War, Spanish-American War, and World War I; marriages; education; land ownership; religious and social activities; deaths; and burials. Included are membership lists, financial records, reports, and historical sketches tracing the growth and history of Jewish groups in Nashville.

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

1. Correspondence, 1850-1875, Bloomstein-Rosenfeld
2. Catalog, *American Jewish Art and History in the South, 1697-1900*
3. Cemetery records, Jewish Burial Ground, Nashville, 1865-1879
4. Cemetery records, Jewish interments, Nashville, 1854-1900
5. Census records, Jewish population, Nashville, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880
6. Confirmation certificates, etc.
7. Documents – Acts of incorporation, etc., 1854-1879
8. Document – Receipt, 1890, Warsaw, Russia
9. Family records and essays, Bloomstein family
10. Financial records, Vine Street Temple, Collections, 1893-1894
11. Historical sketch, Congregation Sherith Israel, 1895-1948
12. Historical sketches of Nashville, 1867-1870
13. Land records – Deeds, etc., to burial grounds, etc.
14. Land records – Jewish sales of property, Davidson Co., Tenn., 1843-1870
15. List of Nashville Jewish graduates, 1869-1898
16. List of officers, board members, and rabbis, Nashville, congregations, 1851-1904
17. Marriage records, List of Jewish marriages in Davidson Co., 1855-1900; newspaper excerpts; marriage bonds
18. Military records, Jewish people in the Civil War (Information from service records, primarily of Nashvillians and Memphians)
19. Military records, Jewish people in the Civil War (Newspaper excerpts, 1861-1865)
20. Military records, Jewish people in the Spanish-American War (Muster roll data on Tennesseans)
21. Military records, Jewish people in the World War, 1914-1918 (List of Davidson Countians)

Box 2

1. Naturalization papers and passports, 1852-1860
2. Newspaper, *The Observer*, Nashville, February 21, 1964
Newspaper Excerpts:
3. Anti-Semitism, 1865-1877
4. Anti- U. S. Grant movement, 1868
5. Congregation K.K. Adath Israel and Hungarian Society, 1874-1898
6. Congregation Mogen David (which became K.K.O.S.), 1853-1899
7. Congregations Ohavai Emes and B'nai Yeshurun, 1860-1875
8. Jewish holidays, 1855-1915
9. Jewish organizations, 1865-1905
10. Jewish people, 1865-1896

11. Jewish people in Nashville, 1900-1910
12. Jewish people in Tennessee towns, including Chattanooga, Clarksville, Franklin, and Murfreesboro, 1866-1896
13. Jewish religious activities, etc., 1874; 1890-1916
14. Jewish social activities, 1869-1899
15. Vine Street Temple, Building of, 1953-1954
End of Newspaper Excerpts
16. Programs, Temple Banquet, Nashville, 1960; Southern California Jewish Historical Society Meeting, 1954
17. Reports, Vine Street Temple, 1888-1899; 1902-1904; 1962. Includes history, members, marriages, and deaths
18. Speech, Cohn, Nathan, 1928. History of the Nashville Jewish congregation